



Options for the Future of the City's Water Treatment Facilities

March 2012

The Mayor and City Council Request Your Participation

To Residents and Customers of the City's Water System.

As you may know, for the past 50 years, the city has treated its own drinking water from its water treatment plant located in Loudoun County and transported it to the city via a water pipeline. Once it arrives in the city, the water is delivered to your home or business through the city's distribution network.

Due to the age of the water treatment plant facilities in Loudoun, and, like other city infrastructure that is periodically repaired and maintained, the facilities are in need of significant repairs and improvements.

The city is at a decision point, whether to:

Option 1: invest substantial sums for capital improvements to its Loudoun facilities, or

Option 2: sell the water treatment plant and invest in ownership of the Fairfax Water system.

If the decision is made that the city discontinue producing water at its plant in Loudoun County, the city would sell its assets there, including the water plant, Beaverdam Reservoir and supporting facilities. With the proceeds from the sale, the city would purchase permanent ownership in a Fairfax Water treatment plant. With this option, there would be no change to the current method of water delivery; the city would continue to own and operate the in-city retail distribution system. Only the source of the water would change.

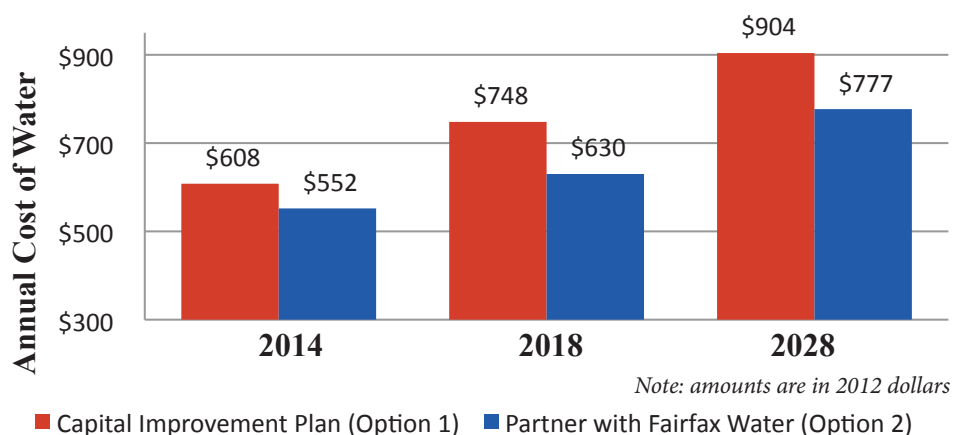
This is not an easy decision, and the various issues and variables involved are complicated. We want you to be informed of this important decision facing the community. The City Council is at the point where it has identified two basic and viable options with regard to the future of the city's Loudoun facilities based on the best information available.

Providing this guide is the first in a multi-step process that will lead to the City Council making a final decision on the future of the water treatment component of the water system. There will be opportunities for public comment, which are presented on the back page.

This chart provides projected cost comparisons of the two options at three points in time.

2018 cost increases account for the anticipated loss of the city's largest wholesale customer.

Cost Comparisons of Options 1 and 2
(typical residential cost - 96,000 gallons)



Two Options to be Considered

These considerations are important in determining which of the two options is most advantageous to the city and its water customers.

Considerations	Option 1 — Retain Water Treatment Facilities/ Capital Improvement Plan	Option 2 — Sell Water Treatment Facilities/ Partner with Fairfax Water
Estimated Annual Cost to a Typical Residential City Water Customer	2014 - \$608 2018 - \$748 2028 - \$904	2014 - \$552, annual savings of \$56 2018 - \$630, annual savings of \$118 2028 - \$777, annual savings of \$127 (Sum of all water customer savings in 2028 totals \$1.75 million)
Water Quality and Safety	High quality drinking water Conventional water treatment technology, effective in meeting current standards Meets or exceeds current safe drinking water requirements	Higher quality drinking water State-of-the-art water treatment technology, positioned to address more stringent standards, now and in the future Better process capability, producing safer drinking water
Customer Service	Delivery of high quality customer service by city employees will remain unchanged Continued service provided by City Hall includes customer service, billing, water line maintenance and meter reading	Delivery of high quality customer service by city employees will remain unchanged Continued service provided by City Hall includes customer service, billing, water line maintenance and meter reading
Risk Factors	Maintain authority and sole responsibility for water treatment process Should future water treatment regulations change, it is unknown whether existing plant can meet newer standards without additional investment. If not, smaller customer base will have to absorb costs. Escalating maintenance and increasing risk of system failure with older facilities and an aging 22-mile transmission main	Buy ownership in Fairfax Water's system, function as a wholesale customer, relinquishing authority over the water treatment process Latest generation water treatment technology will more easily adapt to expected future regulations Larger systems spread risks over a greater number of customers, minimizing risk/cost exposure



Option
1

*Continue with current facilities
City of Fairfax
Goose Creek Water Treatment Plant,
Loudoun County*



Option

2 *Purchase part ownership of a Fairfax Water plant
Fairfax County Water Authority
Corbalis Treatment Plant, Fairfax County*

photos courtesy Fairfax Water





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Options for the Future of the City's Water Treatment Facilities: Conclusion

The decision to create a water supply and treatment plant in Loudoun County some 50 years ago was an innovative and cost effective means to serve the water needs of the town and, later, the City of Fairfax.

With the passage of time, circumstances change and new methods of meeting new challenges emerge.

The city is at a point in its history where serious thought must be given to significant renovation of the Loudoun treatment works or whether the city should pursue another treatment option.

We would like your input.

Mayor and City Council are providing these opportunities to share your thoughts on the subject:

Public Hearings: Tuesday, April 10
7 p.m., City Hall Annex (City Council Chamber)

Tuesday, May 8
7 p.m., City Hall Annex (City Council Chamber)

Final Decision: Tuesday, May 22 — or possibly thereafter
7 p.m., City Hall Annex (City Council Chamber)

*These public hearings will be televised on Cityscreen-12,
the city's television station.*

*Additionally, citizens are encouraged to contact the Mayor and City Council
using the contact information listed above.*